

IN THE CLAIMS

1 (Cancelled)

2 (Currently Amended). The isolated protein which is capable of binding to tumor necrosis factor receptor-associated 2 protein (TRAF2), of claim 1, which is said protein consisting of:

(A) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3;

(B) a variant having an amino acid sequence that is at least 85% identical with SEQ ID NO:3; or

(C) ~~a fragment of said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or of said variant (B),~~

~~wherein said protein, variant and or fragment are is each capable of binding to the NF- $\kappa$ B regulatory complex and to TRAF2.~~

3 (Original). The isolated protein of claim 2, which is a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

4 (Original). The isolated protein of claim 2, which is a fragment of said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

5-19 (Cancelled)

20 (Currently Amended). A pharmaceutical composition comprising the isolated protein of claim ~~1-2~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent, or auxiliary agent.

21 (Currently Amended). A molecule having the binding portion of an antibody capable of binding to the isolated protein of claim 12.

22 (Original). The molecule of claim 21, which is an antibody.

23 (Original). The molecule of claim 22, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

24 (Currently Amended). A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising the molecule of claim 21, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent, or auxiliary agent.

25-37 (Cancelled)

38 (New). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, wherein said protein, variant or fragment is each capable of binding to a component of the NF- $\kappa$ B complex selected from the group consisting of IKAP, IKK-alpha, IKK-beta, IKK-gamma and NIK.

39 (New). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, wherein said variant of (B) has an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical with SEQ ID NO:3.

40 (New). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, wherein said variant of (B) has an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical with SEQ ID NO:3.

41 (New). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, consisting of a variant of the protein comprising the

amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, which variant has an amino acid sequence that is at least 85% identical with SEQ ID NO:3.

42 (New). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, consisting of a variant of the protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, which variant has an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical with SEQ ID NO:3.

43 (New). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, consisting of a variant of the protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, which variant has an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical with SEQ ID NO:3.

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